

CLAIMS

1 1. A container for storing an item comprising:
2 an outer shell defining an interior and an opening, the opening providing access to the
3 interior, the outer shell comprising cardboard;
4 a storage chamber located within the interior and communicating with the opening, the
5 storage chamber being adapted to receive at least one item via the opening;
6 insulating material disposed within the interior between the storage chamber and the outer
7 shell, the insulating material comprising oil from at least one vegetable; and
8 re-freezable material disposed within the interior, the re-freezable material being adapted to
9 maintain a temperature of the storage chamber and of an item placed within the storage chamber.

1 2. The container of claim 1, wherein the insulating material comprises soy oil.

1 3. The container of claim 2, wherein the outer shell is a cardboard box, and the insulating
2 material is a foam applied to the interior of the cardboard box.

1 4. The container of claim 3, wherein the re-freezable material is an acrylate-based super-
2 absorbent.

1 5. The container of claim 1, wherein the insulating material comprises at least one of soy oil
2 polyol foam, urethane foam and polystyrene foam.

1 6. The container of claim 1, wherein an exterior of the insulating material is coated with at
2 least one of an urea polymer, an urea copolymer, a ceramic-containing coating, a polyurethane
3 enamel and an epoxy.

1 7. The container of claim 1, further comprising means for coating the exterior of the outer
2 shell.

1 8. The container of claim 1, wherein the outer shell, the insulating material, and the re-
2 freezable material are biodegradable.

1 9. A method for storing items, said method comprising:
2 providing a container comprising:
3 an outer shell defining an interior and an opening for providing access to the
4 interior, the outer shell comprising cardboard;
5 a storage chamber located within the interior and communicating with the opening,
6 the storage chamber being adapted to receive at least one item via the opening;
7 insulating material disposed within the interior between the storage chamber and the
8 outer shell, the insulating material comprising oil from at least one vegetable; and
9 re-freezable material disposed within the interior, the re-freezable material being
10 adapted to maintain a temperature of an item placed within the storage chamber; and
11 transporting the container.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2 placing an item in the storage chamber of the container.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
2 transporting the container with the item stored therein.

1 12. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2 freezing the re-freezable material.

13. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
placing an item in the storage chamber after freezing the re-freezable material.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein, in transporting the container, the container is transported with the item store therein.

5 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
reusing the container.

16. The method of claim 9, wherein providing a container comprises:
applying the insulating material to the interior of the cardboard box.